

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1892

Introduced by Assembly Member Medina

February 11, 2016

An act to amend Section 69439 of the Education Code, relating to student financial aid.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1892, as introduced, Medina. Student financial aid: Cal Grant C awards.

The Cal Grant Program establishes Cal Grant C awards, which may be used only for institutional fees, and other costs, as specified, for occupational or technical training in a course of not less than 4 months, under the administration of the Student Aid Commission. The program requires the commission to give priority in granting Cal Grant C awards to students pursuing occupational or technical training in areas that meet at least 2 criteria.

This bill would set the maximum Cal Grant C award amount at \$3,000, would authorize these awards to be used for institutional charges and access costs, as defined, and would give priority, for students seeking to enroll in a community college, to those students pursuing occupational or technical training in industry sectors determined by the California Community College Economic and Workforce Development Program to be a high priority for the region encompassing the college.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 69439 of the Education Code is amended to read:

69439. (a) For the purposes of this section, the following terms have the following meanings:

(1) “Career pathway” has the same meaning as set forth in Section 88620.

(2) “Economic security” has the same meaning as set forth in Section 14005 of the Unemployment Insurance Code.

(3) “Industry cluster” has the same meaning as set forth in Section 88620.

(4) “Long-term unemployed” means, with respect to an award applicant, a person who has been unemployed for more than 26 weeks at the time of submission to the commission of his or her application.

(5) “Occupational or technical training” means that phase of education coming after the completion of a secondary school program and leading toward recognized occupational goals approved by the commission.

(b) A Cal Grant C award shall be utilized only for occupational or technical training in a course of not less than four months. There shall be the same number of Cal Grant C awards each year as were made in the 2000–01 fiscal year. The maximum award amount ~~and the total amount of funding shall be determined each year in the annual Budget Act.~~ *shall be three thousand dollars (\$3,000).*

(c) The commission may use criteria it deems appropriate in selecting students to receive grants for occupational or technical training and shall give special consideration to the social and economic situations of the students applying for these grants, giving additional weight to disadvantaged applicants, applicants who face economic hardship, and applicants who face particular barriers to employment. Criteria to be considered for these purposes shall include, but are not limited to, all of the following:

(1) Family income and household size.

(2) Student’s or the students’ parent’s household status, including whether the student is a single parent or child of a single parent.

1 (3) The employment status of the applicant and whether the
2 applicant is unemployed, giving greater weight to the long-term
3 unemployed.

4 (d) The Cal Grant C award recipients shall be eligible for
5 renewal of their grants until they have completed their occupational
6 or technical training in conformance with terms prescribed by the
7 commission. A determination by the commission for a subsequent
8 award year that the program under which a Cal Grant C award was
9 initially awarded is no longer deemed to receive priority shall not
10 affect an award recipient's renewal. In no case shall the grants
11 exceed two calendar years.

12 (e) Cal Grant C awards may be used for institutional fees,
13 ~~charges, and other costs, including tuition, plus training-related~~
14 ~~costs, such as special clothing, local transportation, required tools,~~
15 ~~equipment, supplies, books, and living expenses.~~ *charges and*
16 *access costs, as defined in subdivision (b) of Section 69432.7.* In
17 determining the individual award amounts, the commission shall
18 take into account the financial means available to the student to
19 fund his or her course of study and costs of attendance as well as
20 other state and federal programs available to the applicant.

21 (f) (1) To ensure alignment with the state's dynamic economic
22 needs, the commission, in consultation with appropriate state and
23 federal agencies, including the Economic and Workforce
24 Development Division of the Office of the Chancellor of the
25 California Community Colleges and the California Workforce
26 Investment Board, shall identify areas of occupational and technical
27 training for which students may utilize Cal Grant C awards. The
28 commission, to the extent feasible, shall also consult with
29 representatives of the state's leading competitive and emerging
30 industry clusters, workforce professionals, and career technical
31 educators, to determine which occupational training programs and
32 industry clusters should be prioritized.

33 (2) (A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the areas of
34 occupational and technical training developed pursuant to
35 paragraph (1) shall be regularly reviewed and updated at least
36 every five years, beginning in 2012.

37 (B) By January 1, 2016, the commission shall update the priority
38 areas of occupational and technical training.

39 (3) (A) The commission shall give priority in granting Cal
40 Grant C awards to students pursuing occupational or technical

1 training in areas that meet two of the following criteria pertaining
2 to job quality:

3 (i) High employer need or demand for the specific skills offered
4 in the program.

5 (ii) High employment growth in the occupational field or
6 industry cluster for which the student is being trained.

7 (iii) High employment salary and wage projections for workers
8 employed in the occupations for which they are being trained.

9 (iv) The occupation or training program is part of a
10 well-articulated career pathway to a job providing economic
11 security.

12 (B) To receive priority pursuant to subparagraph (A), at least
13 one of the criteria met shall be specified in clause (iii) or (iv) of
14 that subparagraph.

15 *(4) In addition to the priority given pursuant to paragraph (3)*
16 *for students seeking to enroll in a community college, the*
17 *commission shall give priority in granting Cal Grant C awards to*
18 *students pursuing occupational or technical training in industry*
19 *sectors determined by the California Community College Economic*
20 *and Workforce Development Program to be a high priority for the*
21 *region encompassing the college.*

22 (g) The commission shall determine areas of occupational or
23 technical training that meet the criteria described in paragraph (3)
24 of subdivision (f) in consultation with the Employment
25 Development Department, the Economic and Workforce
26 Development Division of the Office of the Chancellor of the
27 California Community Colleges, and the California Workforce
28 Investment Board using projections available through the Labor
29 Market Information Data Library. The commission may supplement
30 the analyses of the Employment Development Department's Labor
31 Market Information Data Library with the labor market analyses
32 developed by the Economic and Workforce Development Division
33 of the Office of the Chancellor of the California Community
34 Colleges and the California Workforce Investment Board, as well
35 as the projections of occupational shortages and skills gap
36 developed by industry leaders. The commission shall publish, and
37 retain, on its Internet Web site a current list of the areas of
38 occupational or technical training that meet the criteria described
39 in paragraph (3) of subdivision (f), and update this list as necessary.

1 (h) Using the best available data, the commission shall examine
2 the graduation rates and job placement data, or salary data, of
3 eligible programs. Commencing with the 2014–15 academic year,
4 the commission shall give priority to Cal Grant C award applicants
5 seeking to enroll in programs that rate high in graduation rates and
6 job placement data, or salary data.

7 (i) (1) The commission shall consult with the Employment
8 Development Department, the Office of the Chancellor of the
9 California Community Colleges, the California Workforce
10 Investment Board, and the local workforce investment boards to
11 develop a plan to publicize the existence of the grant award
12 program to California’s long-term unemployed to be used by those
13 consulting agencies when they come in contact with members of
14 the population who are likely to be experiencing long-term
15 unemployment. The outreach plan shall use existing administrative
16 and service delivery processes making use of existing points of
17 contact with the long-term unemployed. The local workforce
18 investment boards are required to participate only to the extent
19 that the outreach efforts are a part of their existing responsibilities
20 under the federal Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (Public Law
21 105-220).

22 (2) The commission shall consult with the Workforce Services
23 Branch of the Employment Development Department, the Office
24 of the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges, the
25 California Workforce Investment Board, and the local workforce
26 investment boards to develop a plan to make students receiving
27 awards aware of job search and placement services available
28 through the Employment Development Department and the local
29 workforce investment boards. Outreach shall use existing
30 administrative and service delivery processes making use of
31 existing points of contact with the students. The local workforce
32 investment boards are required to participate only to the extent
33 that the outreach efforts are a part of their existing responsibilities
34 under the federal Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (Public Law
35 105-220).

36 (j) (1) Notwithstanding Section 10231.5 of the Government
37 Code, the Legislative Analyst’s Office shall submit a report to the
38 Legislature on the outcomes of the Cal Grant C program on or
39 before April 1, 2015, and on or before April 1 of each

1 odd-numbered year thereafter. This report shall include, but not
2 necessarily be limited to, information on all of the following:

3 (A) The age, gender, and segment of attendance for recipients
4 in two prior award years.

5 (B) The occupational and technical training program categories
6 prioritized.

7 (C) The number and percentage of students who received
8 selection priority as defined in paragraph (3) of subdivision (f).

9 (D) The extent to which recipients in these award years were
10 successfully placed in jobs that meet local, regional, or state
11 workforce needs.

12 (2) For the report due on or before April 1, 2015, the Legislative
13 Analyst's Office shall include data for two additional prior award
14 years and shall compare the mix of occupational and technical
15 training programs and institutions in which Cal Grant C award
16 recipients enrolled before and after implementation of subdivision
17 (f).

18 (3) A report to be submitted pursuant to this subdivision shall
19 be submitted in compliance with Section 9795 of the Government
20 Code.